Panchayats which are likely to be provided with atleast one telephone by the end of 31st, December, 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): A Plan has been made to extend telephone facility to 5000 Nos. of Gram Panchayats by the end of 31st December, 1990.

Sri Lankan Refugees

1864. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have provided suitable rehabilitation for those refugees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) The total number of Sri Lankan refugees in India at present is 93,576. Of these, 5359 are lodged in relief camps in Tamil Nadu and Orissa and the rest are on their own.

(b) and (c) As Sri Lankan refugees are not Indian citizens and are required to be sent back to Sri Lanka in due course, measures for their rehabilitation in India are not required to be taken. However, so far an expenditure of Rs. 15.08 crores has been incurred on relief measures upto 31-12-1989.

Extension of President's rule in Punjab

1865. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL; SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend President's Rule in Punjab beyond 11th May, 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government would solve the issue of Punjab by Constituting the State Assembly and if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME" AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) The question of holding elections to the Punjab State Legislative Assembly or to extend President's Rule in Punjab which will require further amendment of the Constitution, is under consideration of the Government.

Talks with Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary

1866. DR. RATNAKARPANDEY: SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary, Mr. Tilakratna visited New Delhi for discussions with him, on the 8th February, 1990; and

(b) if so, what precise issues were discussed with him and what was the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir; the discussions were mainly with our foreign Secretary.

(b) The issues discussed, *inter alia,* were de-induction of the IPKF from Sri Lanka; safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastem Province; devolution of powers; efforts for ceasefire between Tamil militants groups; and Sri Lanka's proposal for a Friendship Treaty with India. The Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary gave his Government's perceptions and we gave him ours.

Dowry deaths in Delhi

1867. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of dowry deaths in Delhi during the last three months and during each of the quarter in 1989; and

(b) what effective steps are being taken to prevent such deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) 22 cases of dowry deaths were reported during the period from December, 1989 to February, 90. 18 such cases were reported during the period from 1-1-89 to 31-3-89, 32 cases from 1-4-89 to 30-6-89, 37 cases, 1-7-89 to 30-9-89 and 23 cases from 1-10-89 to 31-12-89.

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent dowry deaths:—

(i) Offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act have been made cognizable and attract more stringent punishment.

(ii) A new Section has been added in the Indian Penal Code making the offences of harassment and cruelty to women by their husbands and in-laws a cognizable offence.

(iii) New sub-sections 113-A and 113-B have been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act providing for presumption by a Court as to abetment of suicide/dowry death by a married woman if cruelty or harassment for dowry is proved.

(iv) Short-stay' Home has been set up by the Delhi Administration for the use of women in distress.

(v) Special Magistrates have been detailed for recording dying declarations.

(vi) Public is being educated through the media about the evbil of dowry.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to get postmortem examination conducted by two surgeons in dowry death cases.

(viii) A Special Cell for crime against women under the supervision of a woman Deputy Commissioner of Police has been set up.

मोटर यान अधिनियम में संशोधन करने के लिए दुपहिया वाहन निर्माताओं द्वारा दिये गये अभ्यावेदन

1868. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन :** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार मोटर यान अधिनियम की धारा 103(2) में पुन. संशोधन करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, उसके क्या कारण हैं

(ख) किन-किन दुपहिया वाहन निर्माता कम्पनियों और निर्माताओं ने ऐसा संशोधन किये जाने की मांग की है और उनकी याचिका में इसके क्या कारण बताये गये हैं ;

(ग) 1 फरवरी 1990 की नियत तिथि के समाप्त हो जाने के बाद भी वाहनों में दिशा-संकेतक लगाने के लिए दो